

GreenList

*Energy & Environmental news brought to you
weekly by the Sustainable Solutions Division
of the DC Energy Office*

March 20–26, 2006



AAAS Seminar

Moving Forward on Climate Change

Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29

6:00 to 7:30 pm, 1200 New York Avenue, NW

- The American Association for the Advancement of Science hosts a seminar and panel discussion on climate science, climate policy, and how climate scientists and policymakers can together do a better job of addressing societal vulnerability, risk, and resilience in the presence of uncertainties and divergent social values.
- Contact [Alicia Wallace](#), 202-326-6700.

New Web Resource

Green Suppliers Network

via [GreenBiz.com](#)

Managed jointly by U.S. EPA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST/MEP), this program aims to help companies minimize waste generation and remove institutional roadblocks by leveraging MEP's national network of manufacturing technical assistance resources.

Congressional Event

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Climate Conference

Tuesday, April 4, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Hart Senate Office Building, Room 216

- a discussion, led and moderated by Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, addressing the challenge of creating a market-based greenhouse gas regulator system

**Register for
GreenDC Week!**

Top Stories

Silly Idea of the Week: Using Coal to Make Ethanol from Corn

Treehugger — March 26, 2006

Goldfield, Iowa, is the site of an ethanol plant with a twist—it takes energy to make ethanol from corn—not just to harvest it and bring it to the plant, but to run the process. Some use methane from cow patties; others use natural gas; Goldfield burns coal, which creates more CO₂ than burning fossil fuels directly.

Be Worried, Be Very Worried

Time Magazine — March 26, 2006

No one can say exactly what it looks like when a planet takes ill, but it probably looks a lot like Earth. Never mind what you've heard about global warming as a slow-motion emergency that would take decades to play out. Suddenly and unexpectedly, the crisis is upon us.

Rabbi Michael Lerner Calls on Environmentalists to Develop a Spiritual Vision

Grist Magazine — March 22, 2006

Question: What would you say to someone who claims that fear is more basic to human nature? That altruism is a cultural artifact...?

Answer: There's a struggle inside of all of us between two ways of viewing the world. One sees us as thrown into this world by ourselves, in an endless struggle [of domination and control]. The other worldview says, no, ... we are born of a mother ... the experience of love and care and generosity and kindness is deeply inscribed in the human experience.

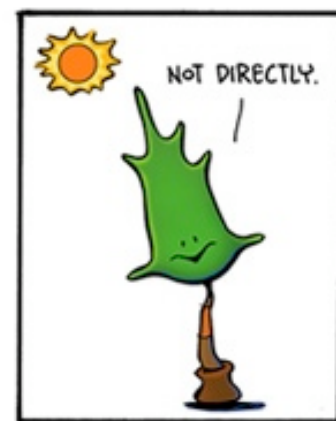
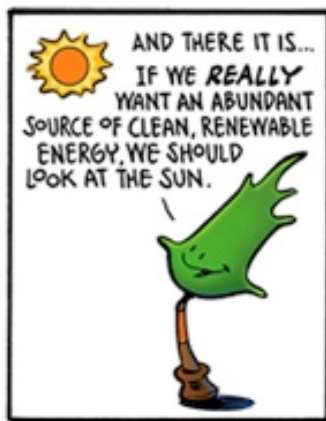
At Home in Ecocity: Tear Up Parking Lots, Uncover Creeks

Willits News — March 22, 2006

To hear Richard Register tell it, the city of the future will look more like the Hanging Gardens of Babylon than like the crime-ridden, blighted expanse often referred to as the inner-city. Register and Kirstin Miller of Ecocity Builders, who facilitated last weekend's slideshow and workshop "Willits in Transition, Building a Sustainable Tomorrow," today painted the picture for more than 100 attentive participants including city officials.

RUSTLE THE LEAF™

BY PONCÉ & WRIGHT



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In Other News

[The Department of Defense Meets Peak Oil](#)

Falls Church News Press — March 23, 2006

The U.S. Department of Defense has been silent about just how they are going to get along when the oil starts running low. Last week, however, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett brought a DoD-sponsored report to the world's attention: "Energy Trends and Their Implications for US Army Installations."

[New Zero-Rate Vehicle Tax for Least Polluting Cars](#)

Guardian — March 23, 2006

The chancellor sought to prove his environmental credentials through a series of eye-catching green initiatives including a crackdown on drivers of gas-guzzling four-by-fours, nicknamed "Chelsea tanks" for their inner-city popularity.

[GE Energy to Lead to Rural Electrification Program](#)

Bizjournals.com — March 23, 2006

General Electric Co. has begun a rural electrification program in India, with GE Energy expected to deploy a variety of power generation technologies to support the effort. The program will use renewable energy technologies from Atlanta-based GE Energy's portfolio of products.

[Inuit See Signs in Arctic Thaw](#)

Washington Post — March 22, 2006

Thirty miles from the Arctic Circle, hunter Noah Metuq feels the Arctic changing. Its frozen grip is loosening; the people and animals who depend on its icy reign are experiencing a historic reshaping of their world.

[Green Blogs: The Green Revolution Moves Online](#)

San Francisco Gate — March 22, 2006

With just a couple of years of continuous publication under their belts, the biggest green blogs now routinely attract more readers than most environmentally oriented print magazines. The free-form exchange among these bloggers and their readers has become an important part of the public dialog on environmental matters.

[Japanese Conglomerate Closes the Loop for Food Wastes](#)

Japan for Sustainability via *GreenBiz.com* — March 22, 2006

Keio Corporation, an urban railway group operating in Tokyo, has started selling organic vegetables grown with organic fertilizers made from food wastes, supplying them to a restaurant in the conglomerate's Keio Plaza Hotel. This recycling project is one of the company's first major milestones in establishing a total recycling system for food waste.

[Alternative Energy Inspires New Power Generation](#)

Guardian — March 21, 2006

The wind is roaring, the temperature outside is below zero and fuel bills are going through the roof, but woodsman Ben Law is not bothered. The timber house that he built three years ago in a Surrey forest is warm and bright and the heating and lighting is completely free.

[The New "Power Plants": Trees Make Electricity?](#)

Trebugger — March 21, 2006

It appears that a small electrical component company near Boston has figured out how to get electricity out of trees.

Ontario Offers to Buy Homemade Electricity

CBC News — March 21, 2006

Ontario is offering to subsidize homeowners and businesses that switch to renewable power sources like solar panels or wind turbines. It's the first program of its type in the country and Premier Dalton McGuinty says he hopes the plan will see a quarter of a million homes powered by renewable energy within a decade.

Cleaner Air Brings Drop in Death Rate

New York Times — March 21, 2006

When air pollution in a city declines, the city benefits with a directly proportional drop in death rates, a new study has found. For each decrease of one microgram of soot per cubic meter of air, death rates from cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness and lung cancer decrease by three percent.

Suzuki Warns Ontario of Nuke Expansion

Canoe Network (Canada) — March 21, 2006

Renowned environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki, a man Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty described Tuesday as his childhood idol, says he'll be "very disappointed" if the province chooses to expand its nuclear power base.

The Real News About Green Marketing: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

MarketingProfs.com — March 21, 2006

Old news: Green products don't work, and consumers won't pay a premium for them. New news: Investment in environmentally preferable products and technologies can lead to a potent new source of innovation and competitive advantage.

Changing Climate's Threat to Water Seen

Los Angeles Times — March 21, 2006

Regions including Africa and South Asia—home to most of the 1.1 billion people who live without clean water—will be among the hardest hit by changing weather patterns, experts at the 4th World Water Forum said. They blamed the threats largely on changes in the global climate.

1,000 Suns from Huge Concentrating Dish

Treebugger — March 20, 2006

Israel's National Solar Energy Center will start testing a 4,300 square foot solar collecting dish. The huge dish is capable of achieving 1,000 suns—it can concentrate the intensity of the sun's energy by a factor of a thousand.

Looser Emission Rules Rejected

Washington Post — March 18, 2006

A federal appeals court blocked the Bush administration's four-year effort to loosen emission rules for aging coal-fired power plants, unanimously ruling yesterday that the changes violated the Clean Air Act and that only Congress could authorize such revisions.

Solar Energy Users New Hope for Char People

New Nation (Bangladesh) — March 17, 2006

Solar power in remote and hardly reachable char areas on the Teesta and Dharla basins in Lalmonirhat has brought an overall change in life-style of hundreds of isolated people. The char people of Sadar, Hatibandha, Kaliganj, and Aditmari upazilas of Lalmonirhat are showing more and more interest in availing the facilities of modern life by purchasing the solar power plants in groups at a comparatively reasonable price.

Tower of London on Climate List

BBC News — March 16, 2006

The UN's cultural and scientific wing Unesco says climate change threatens World Heritage Sites such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Tower of London. The two-day meeting aims to develop plans of action to mitigate the threat. Environmental groups want such action to include pledges to reduce emissions, but the U.S. says Unesco has no authority to act on climate change.
